Cheating in filling LPG cylinders

*112. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Mnister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Weights & Measures Department of the Directorate of Industries had conducted a raid at the Indian Oil LPG filling plant at Shakurbasti, Delhi on the 14th January, 1986 and in a random check of cylinders which were ready for despatch to destination, 10 out of 12 cylinders were found to be short in weight;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the particulars of the persons responsible for filling less LPG in the cylinders: and

(d) what action has been taken against each of them and also to ensure the filling of full quantity of LPG in the cylinders to save the consumers from being cheated in this way?

THE MINISETR OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (d) At the time of inspection of Indian Oil Corporation's Plant at Shakurbasti, Delhi by the Weight & Measures Deptt., Delhi Administration on January 7, 1986, out of 12 cylinders checked, 10 were found short in weight by 400 to 900 gms, one was found having excess weight of 300gms and one was accurately filled.

Bottling of LPG in cylinders at the plant is done through Automatic Filling Machines mounted on a carousel (Rotating Platform). The reasons for the under and overfilling appear to be erratic functioning of the Automatic Filling Machines and weighing systems at the Bottling Plant, which have been subjected to heavy and continuous utilisation with a view to meeting the increased winer demand in the area, leaving little time for adequate maintenance. According to the interim report of the Enquiry Committee set up by the Corporation no individual responsibility has been pinpointed.

The Corporation is carrying out urgent maintenance of the machines and is strengthening the internal checking and control systems in order to minimise the erratic functioning of the Automatic Filling Machines and the weighing systems at the Bottling Plant.

Production of kerosene

*113. PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE:
PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of Kerosene produced indigenously and imported from abroad at present.

(b) the annual amount of subsidy allowed by Government on Kerosene;

(c) the steps taken by Government so far to make Kerosene freely available to the rural poor in view of the lack of firewood due to the rapid depletion of the forests; and

(d) the reasons for the price hike of this essential commodity which is largely used by the urban and the rural poor.